

DRESS AND FASHION.

SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PREVAILING MODE.

Ordinary Flat Sleeves Predicted—Full Skirts Flaring at the Bottom Still Fashionable—Popularity of Alpaca and Mohair—Evening Gowns—New Neckwear.

Regarding the styles of the present season, many women are content. The short full bodices with their ample sleeves and sashes are quite to their liking; delightful also the "tempestuous petticoats," which when properly put impart dignity to the figure and hide its defects. But there are other women—and they form a numerous class—to whom the present fashion seems disastrous with its gorgeous material, riotous combinations of color and superfluity of garniture. This latter class con-



A PICTURESQUE COSTUME.

sider the tendency to overdress a mistake. There certainly is no question but that gorgeous fabrics belong to the night, with its attendant glare of electricity or gaslight. Another thing, they add years to their wearers. Youth and brocade associate themselves naturally, and a simple toilet when artistically fashioned will prolong youth, while silk attire reduces it to a vanishing point.

Just at present fashions appear to be going through a period of stagnation. Few new models are to be seen, and dressmakers are taking their vacations preparatory to the fall rush. There are reasons for feeling that puffed sleeves will make way in the autumn costumes for those of less ample proportions, if not for the ordinary flat sleeves. The skirt with the so called "organ plate" is already passe, but there is as yet no diminution in the width of dress skirts. The bodices are, in point of fact, a collection of trimming, and one rarely has a bodice that matches the skirt in color or material. The commonplace shirt waist has proved so comfortable and convenient that it will hold its own to the very end of the season.

A decidedly picturesque costume, which embodies salient features of the prevailing styles, includes a bodice of gray silk, shot with green; white silk vest, surmounted by green velvet collar fastened at one side; gray crepon skirt, with silk lines of green running downward; Marie Antoinette fichu of white chiffon; large picture hat of black straw, surmounted by gray ostrich plumes; a green satin bow inside the brim.

Alpaca and mohair are enjoying a well deserved popularity. Travelers like these materials because their stiffness lends itself to carry out the flaring effect of the skirt, and then, too, they retain their freshness after the hard usage of a journey. The usefulness of alpaca and mohair is, however, by no means restricted to traveling costumes; very dressy toilets are in white, buff and blue colors in these fabrics.

Among the newest of evening gowns is one of white satin, a princess dress. The sleeves are of ample proportions, and are draped across to the center of the back, caught by a large buckle, and thence the satin flows out into a wattle train. The bodice is covered entirely with ivory lace, embroidered in silver sequins and cord. Equally ef-



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